United Nations A/HRC/29/38/Add.2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 April 2015

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Twenty-ninth session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro

Addendum

Second consultative meeting on strengthening partnerships with national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms* **

Summary

On 21 and 22 May 2014, the former Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, convened the second consultation to discuss ways to strengthen partnerships with national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms. The present report contains the outcomes of the discussions of the experts from 26 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East who shared their national, bilateral, subregional and regional experiences in prevention efforts and in the protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking, including the setting up of institutional and legislative frameworks established for those purposes at the municipal level.

* The summary of the present report is circulated in all official languages. The report itself, which is annexed to the summary, is circulated in the language of submission only.

** The appendix is circulated as received.

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The report covers issues concerning the institutional frameworks of the mandate of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms and explores ways to further enhance collaboration between those national anti-trafficking institutions and their counterparts at the regional, subregional and international levels. It also focuses on the means of fostering partnership among national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms by addressing the challenges and dilemmas they face and sharing lessons learned. The issues of collection and analysis of information and data on trafficking in persons, and fostering cooperation between national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms and between State and non-State actors in destination, transit and source countries are also covered.

The participants valued the meeting as a good platform for discussing common issues, exchanging good practices and establishing contacts. They reiterated their readiness to continue to engage with each other, as well as with State and non-State actors at the regional, subregional and international levels, including with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, with the United Nations system in general and with other relevant stakeholders.

Annex

[English only]

Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, on the second consultative meeting on strengthening partnerships with national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms (Bangkok, 21–22 May 2014)

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I. Context

1. On 21 and 22 May 2014, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Joy Ngozi Ezeilo,[1] convened the second consultative meeting on strengthening partnerships with national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms, in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The meeting, which took place in Bangkok, aimed to provide an opportunity to continue sharing experiences and lessons learned among national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms, and to strengthen further the partnership between her mandate and those mechanisms.

2. The global consultation brought together 46 participants, including national rapporteurs and representatives of equivalent mechanisms from 26 countries in different regions of the world, and representatives of relevant United Nations, international and regional organizations.

3. The setting up and strengthening of national coordinating mechanisms as a means of effectively addressing trafficking in persons has been the subject of much international attention. In the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, States Members encourage effective cooperation and coordination of efforts at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels, and through the networks provided by relevant organizations to share best practices in capacity-building for responding to and combating trafficking in persons.[2] In several of its resolutions, the General Assembly has encouraged States to consider setting up or strengthening national coordinating mechanisms, such as a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in violence against women, in particular trafficking.[3] In its resolution 68/192, the General Assembly invited the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, pursuant to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to consider the need for meetings of representatives of national coordinating mechanisms on combating trafficking in persons, with a view to facilitating, inter alia, better international coordination and information exchange on good practices to address the problem of trafficking in persons. Likewise, in accordance with the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking, contained in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Economic and Social Council (E/2002/68/Add.1), States and, where applicable, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, should consider establishing mechanisms to monitor the human rights impact of anti-trafficking laws, policies, programmes and interventions.[4]

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[1] The present report is submitted by Ms. Giammarinaro, who took up her functions in July 2014, after the second consultation with national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms had taken place in May 2014. All references to the Special Rapporteur in the present report are therefore to Ms. Ezeilo.

[2] General Assembly resolution 64/293, annex, para. 51.

[3] See, for example, General Assembly resolutions 59/166, 61/144 and 63/156 on trafficking in women and girls.

[4] In accordance with article 9 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (the Palermo Protocol), States are required to establish comprehensive policies, programmes and other measures to prevent and combat trafficking in

4. At the regional level, the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings encourages States parties to consider appointing national rapporteurs or other mechanisms to monitor the anti-trafficking activities of State institutions and the implementation of national legislation (art. 29). The scope and mandate of those mechanisms is clearly defined in directive 2011/36/EU of 5 April 2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims.

5. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur, set out in Human Rights Council resolution 8/12, includes identifying and sharing best practices, proposing adequate responses to challenges and obstacles in order to uphold and protect the human rights of victims of trafficking, identifying gaps in protection, and emphasizing practical solutions, including through international cooperation, with a view to protecting the human rights of actual or potential victims of trafficking. Based on her research and her ensuing report to the Human Rights Council at its tenth session, the Special Rapporteur recommended that States should consider the appointment of a national rapporteur who would liaise with the Special Rapporteur to gather, exchange and process information on trafficking in persons, and monitor and evaluate anti-trafficking action (A/HRC/10/16, p. 27). The analysis and data provided by national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms can be instrumental in measuring the effectiveness of the steps taken to prevent human trafficking, prosecute alleged perpetrators and protect victims.

6. The Special Rapporteur has long maintained the need for better cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination in order to address effectively the serious challenge to humanity posed by the phenomenon of trafficking in persons. In her report to the fourteenth session of the Human Rights Council, she recognized the key role of regional and subregional mechanisms in providing an anti-trafficking response that is both multilateral and sufficiently close to countries' realities and specificities within a certain region (A/HRC/14/32, para. 2). Furthermore, participants in a consultation on the role of regional and subregional mechanisms in international efforts to counter trafficking in persons, especially women and children, convened in Dakar in October 2010 by the Special Rapporteur, emphasized that a prerequisite to effective and wider cooperation was effective coordination at the national and regional levels through structures such as focal points, coordinators or rapporteurs. In February 2012, in the spirit of cooperation and sharing of experience, the Special Rapporteur participated in a meeting of the informal network of European Union national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms, organized by the European Commission and the European Union Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, at which the participants shared information on their work and activities and held discussions on the challenges of, and good practices for, implementing the existing national referral mechanisms; the advantages of having transnational referral mechanisms; and the issues of victim identification and safe return to prevent retrafficking.

7. On 23 and 24 May 2013 in Berlin, as a follow-up to the discussions and initiatives mentioned above and in the framework of her mandate, the Special Rapporteur convened the first consultative meeting on strengthening partnerships with national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms. The objective was to promote the exchange of information on trends, good practices and lessons learned from the activities of various national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms; consider and discuss possible ways of promoting partnerships and cooperation between national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms from various regions of the world; and provide an opportunity for

persons, which should, as appropriate, include cooperation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society.

the 40 participants from 19 countries and representatives of relevant United Nations, international and regional organizations to meet one another and create and enhance networking opportunities between national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms from countries in different regions.

8. The outcome of the consultation was a set of recommendations, based on the observations and conclusions of the participants, for fostering cooperation and sharing expertise and good practice among national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms from different regions of the world. The recommendations are contained in the report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, on the consultative meeting on strengthening partnerships with national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms (Berlin, 23–24 May 2013) (A/HRC/26/37/Add.1, annex).

II. Introduction

9. The second consultative meeting was opened by Laurent Meillan, Officer-in-Charge at the OHCHR Regional Office for South-East Asia, who welcomed the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and all the participants to Bangkok. Mr. Meillan congratulated the Special Rapporteur for the ground-breaking work she had undertaken during her mandate by giving voices to victims. He also underlined the fact that partnership and cooperation were among the central tenets of the Special Rapporteur's approach to combating trafficking in persons, which included advocacy for the establishment of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms and regular consultations with stakeholders at the national, subregional, regional and international levels. In his welcoming remarks Sebastian Baumeister, Project Coordinator at the UNODC Regional Office in Bangkok, pointed out some of the key challenges faced in South-East Asia, such as the hidden nature of trafficking in persons, the small number of identified and supported victims, the low conviction rates and the overall insufficient awareness about the crime of human trafficking. He also noted that migrant smuggling, as a main driver of irregular migration, significantly contributed to fuelling human trafficking. He called on participants to use the consultative meeting as an opportunity to strengthen the network between national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms. In her remarks, Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, explained the objective of the meeting and recalled that international bodies had for a long time been making a compelling call for the establishment of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms to monitor the situation of human trafficking within countries, but also to evaluate the degree of implementation of existing legislation and the effectiveness of national action plans and policies, as well as strengthening the gathering and use of data and reporting on trafficking in human beings. She noted that, in exercising her mandate, she had consistently advocated for the importance of such mechanisms and emphasized that cooperation and exchange of expertise and good practices among countries would contribute to raising the effectiveness of anti-trafficking efforts.

10. The objectives and expected outcomes of the second consultative meeting were: (a) to deepen discussion on the importance and benefits of establishing and implementing the mandate of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms; (b) to promote the exchange of information on current trends, good practices and lessons learned from the activities of various national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms carrying out similar functions, including national coordinating mechanisms; and (c) to provide a forum for developing and enhancing networking between national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms across countries and regions.

11. The agenda of the consultative meeting was divided into five sessions, covering different aspects of strengthening the role of national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms and the potential for cooperation and coordination between them and with other regional, State and non-State actors (see appendix).[5]

III. Overview of the discussions held during the consultative meeting

A. The role of national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms in addressing trafficking in persons: institutional framework

12. Presentations on the institutional framework were made by national rapporteurs and representatives of equivalent mechanisms from Brazil, Israel, Nepal and Nigeria. While noting the differences and similarities between such bodies, speakers and participants highlighted the following key functions and responsibilities in achieving the common goal of responding to and combating trafficking in persons.

13. Some of the key functions of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms were identified as the collection of information on trafficking in persons, analysis of its root causes, nature, extent and type, and the identification of emerging trends in trafficking in persons, all with a view to contributing to the development of effective anti-trafficking policies, programmes and interventions. In Finland, the national rapporteur has identified trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation as an emerging form of trafficking which has, until recently, been underreported. In Nigeria, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters is mandated to conduct research on the root causes of trafficking in persons, and in Uganda, the establishment of a national databank on cases of trafficking in persons is one of the functions of the Coordination Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

14. Monitoring and evaluating the impact of existing anti-trafficking legislation and policies, revising existing laws and guidelines in line with international standards, and proposing new legislation and standard operating procedures for their uniform implementation also emerged as functions of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms. In Israel, the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator contributed to the promulgation of anti-trafficking legislation at the beginning of her mandate. Representatives from Finland, the Philippines and Uganda have proposed revisions of existing laws and regulations related to various aspects of trafficking in persons. The mechanisms in India, Nigeria and Uganda have developed standard operating procedures to enable stakeholders to harmonize their anti-trafficking actions.

15. Some mechanisms are involved in the prosecution and punishment of traffickers. In Nepal, they conduct investigations and fact-finding missions and in Nigeria, they are involved in investigating and prosecuting traffickers.

16. With regard to redress, recovery and reintegration of victims of trafficking in persons, several national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms have proposed the establishment of relevant institutions, including shelters for male and female victims of trafficking in Israel and a one-stop victims' assistance centre in the Philippines. The

[5] The agenda of the meeting is also available from www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Trafficking/Pages/2ndConsultativeMeeting2014.aspx.

mechanism in Uganda has been considering turning the Coordination Office into a one-stop operational agency for all counter-human trafficking activities in order to improve the protection of victims and enhance preventive strategies. The mechanism in the United Arab Emirates works closely with shelters where victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, stay. It also supports a newly established shelter for male victims of trafficking in persons.

17. Cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders within a country, as well as capacity-building among concerned stakeholders and raising public awareness, were identified as other key tasks of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms. In Finland and Nepal, that includes periodic reporting on trafficking in persons to Parliament and Government, which also serves to raise awareness among officials. In Latvia, those tasks are achieved by sharing best practices among stakeholders.

18. Some national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms are involved in the promotion of cooperation and partnership at the bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels. In Nigeria, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters cooperates and assists national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms in West Africa and other parts of the world and reinforces anti-trafficking measures in bilateral and multilateral agreements. The mechanism in Nepal has proposed a memorandum of understanding with Malaysia and Qatar on the protection of the rights of migrants.

19. With regard to the type of national coordinating mechanism that could best address trafficking in persons, a variety of models of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms emerged, namely inter-agency coordinating structures, stand-alone institutions, offices within government institutions and institutions that are integrated into a broad-based human rights institution. The possible advantages and disadvantages of each coordinating mechanism were discussed on the basis of factors such as the size of the country, its geographical location, the extent of the problem and the availability of resources.

20. Besides serving as a platform for concerned Governments and non-governmental actors involved in the fight against trafficking in persons, the main benefit of an inter-agency coordinating structure is the maximized utilization of existing human, financial and material resources to address the multifaceted phenomenon of trafficking in persons through a multi-stakeholder response. Given their nature and the importance of networking, coordinating mechanisms can act as peer support groups and provide forums for sharing experiences and ideas and discussing areas of common concern and joint strategies, as well as offering visibility and fostering collaboration and compliance with international standards. The government institutions most involved in combating trafficking in persons, such as the Ministry of Justice in Brazil, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, the Ministries of the Interior in Latvia and Uganda and the Ministry for Public Welfare in Indonesia, head those inter-agency structures. Often, the choice of ministry as the lead institution can affect how trafficking in persons is predominantly approached at the national level, for instance as a law enforcement or a migration issue. With regard to challenges, the experience of some countries revealed that coordination among the various members was often poor, and the individual entities often had to deal with competing priorities in their parent institutions. Moreover, it was noted that the funding allocated for the work of the inter-agency mechanism was found to be irregular and insufficient.

21. Some countries have established national stand-alone institutions to address the problem of trafficking in persons within the country. The National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters in Nigeria is one such institution, with a board, an executive secretary and eight departments headed by directors. It has a clear mandate to focus national efforts to combat the phenomenon in close

collaboration with government and non-governmental agencies within the country, and at the regional and international levels. The likelihood that the mandate will remain relatively restricted to the protection of only the most vulnerable and excluded groups, at the expense of a comprehensive approach, was identified as the risk of stand-alone institutions.

22. Another type of national rapporteur or equivalent mechanism is a department or office within a government institution charged with combating trafficking in persons. One example is the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator in Israel, which was established under the Ministry of Justice and is tasked with promoting cooperation among all relevant government authorities. The Office also serves as a bridge between government authorities and non-governmental organizations, as well as facilitating cooperation with relevant international bodies. One advantage of such an institution is the relative flexibility it has to adapt its responses to changing trends in trafficking, although coordination among stakeholders could be a challenge.

23. The benefits of a mechanism to address trafficking in persons that is independent from the Government were particularly noted by participants from Nepal, where the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Women and Children is part of the National Human Rights Commission, and from Finland, where the Ombudsman for Minorities is appointed as a National Rapporteur. The main strength of that arrangement is the ability to build on the interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights and mainstream the issue across all anti-trafficking areas. Given the autonomous nature of such mechanisms, their staff can objectively evaluate the implementation of anti-human trafficking legislation, strategies and activities, point out existing drawbacks and make comprehensive legal and policy recommendations. Their autonomy also increases the credibility of their actions, which include handling complaints regarding trafficking in persons. The Office of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal is mandated to carry out investigations and monitor site visits. In Finland, the National Rapporteur provides legal advice and may also assist victims of human trafficking in securing their rights. The National Rapporteur enjoys independent collaboration with the Government, civil society organizations (CSOs) and victims, based on trust. However, in order to ensure a unified approach in that set-up, there is a need for willingness and incentives to undertake cross-disciplinary work in collaboration with stakeholders.

24. The representatives of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms from Latvia, the Philippines, Uganda and the United Arab Emirates highlighted the fact that, for the most part, those institutions were created, their objectives defined and their powers and responsibilities conferred through legislation (acts of parliament, government resolutions or ministerial decrees), national action plans and other adopted measures and high-level governmental expressions of policy. Besides being an indication of the country's commitment to fighting trafficking in persons, those instruments provided legitimate grounds for an institutionalized response and the work of national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms, and allowed them access to information. They also formed the basis for cooperation with relevant stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels. The relative ease or difficulty of amending the provisions of those frameworks in order to adapt to the changing anti-trafficking work of the national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms was also noted.

25. In addition, a number of challenges and dilemmas were identified by national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms in the course of their work. The lack of systematic collection, exchange and analysis of information and coordination between relevant government institutions, the judiciary, law enforcement agencies and service providers were some of the challenges shared by presenters and participants. In Brazil, that resulted in non-uniform implementation of existing anti-trafficking policies and legislation within the regions of the country. The mechanisms from Bahrain, Indonesia and the Philippines found

the collection and management of standardized or homogenous information and data by all stakeholders challenging. In countries where trafficking in persons for the purpose of labour exploitation was a reality, such as the United Arab Emirates, collaboration with the private sector to address the phenomenon jointly had proven challenging. The representatives of Nigeria and Uganda had found that exchanging information and coordinating with other national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms in source, transit and destination countries was often difficult, which had a negative impact on the speedy provision of remedies to victims of trafficking in persons.

26. The rapid identification of existing and emerging forms of trafficking in persons with a view to addressing the evolving nature of trafficking in persons, including acts of trafficking committed with sophisticated and new technology tools, was found to be challenging. The national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms in Latvia and Nigeria identified another problem: the slow legislative response when it came to promulgating and amending existing anti-trafficking laws and the gaps in legislation establishing national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms, compared with the rapidly changing phenomenon of trafficking. The representatives of Latvia and Uganda also highlighted the inadequate implementation of existing laws owing to a lack of awareness and capacity among the relevant staff of the judiciary and law enforcement officers. In addition, the inadequate level of protection provided to victims of trafficking hindered them from accessing assistance. In Nigeria, the fear of reprisals by traffickers hindered victims of trafficking from benefiting from such assistance. The absence of referral mechanisms for victims of trafficking was also a challenge noted by the representative of Latvia.

27. Another concern faced by national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms relates to human resources. That includes high staff turnover in Indonesia and delays in replacing key staff, such as in Nepal, where the position of Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Women and Children has been vacant since 2012. The representatives of Brazil, Nigeria and Uganda also mentioned different levels of commitment and, at times, the limited awareness of trafficking in persons among staff. The staff of the Ugandan Coordination Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons had found that the lack of control over members of the task force who were scattered in different ministries and their heavy workloads within their parent government institutions left them with limited time to dedicate to their anti-trafficking responsibilities. Financial constraints were also highlighted as a challenge that affected the work of the national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms. The size and cultural diversity of some countries were also identified as challenges by national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms, as their limited resources did not enable them to be physically present in all areas of the country and to adapt their anti-trafficking efforts to all forms of trafficking and all victims.

28. In spite of those challenges, national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms have been able to make concrete contributions to anti-trafficking efforts, including in the proposal, development, implementation and monitoring of national anti-trafficking legislation, policies and mechanisms in cooperation with government and CSO stakeholders. Participants highlighted the need for a human rights-based and victim-centred approach and cautioned that the fight against trafficking in persons should not encroach on safe migration routes used by people in search of better living conditions. The representative of Brazil mentioned that victims of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation were allowed to stay in the country for up to one year, even if they did not cooperate with the authorities. Thereafter, they could apply for permanent residence. In Malaysia, victims of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation who did not require care and protection were allowed to work legally in the country. Some national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms had been able to identify new trends and forms of trafficking in persons and had adapted their responses accordingly (see para. 13 above). The mechanisms in Israel, Morocco and Uganda had played a role in proposing new anti-trafficking

legislation, while the mechanisms in Nigeria and the Philippines were working towards the amendment of existing laws in order to address gaps, in line with the rapidly changing phenomenon of trafficking in persons. The mechanisms in Israel and the Philippines had been instrumental in putting in place or strengthening anti-trafficking task forces. In Nigeria, a trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons had been set up, financed from the sale of confiscated assets of convicted traffickers, and a national referral mechanism had been developed. The mechanisms in the Philippines and Uganda were exploring the possibility of setting up one-stop victim assistance centres.

29. Generally, all national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms are involved in advocacy and awareness-raising activities on the problem of trafficking, targeting all stakeholders, including front line officials such as the judiciary and the police, and CSOs. Periodic reports to higher public bodies on progress in implementing national plans of action, such as those submitted by the Brazilian and Finnish mechanisms, provide an opportunity to indirectly raise awareness of political leaders and policymakers about trafficking in persons. As a result of the 2010 report to Parliament of the Finnish National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, Parliament required the Government to take specific action to enhance victim identification, assistance and protection, and to improve pretrial investigation and prosecution processes. In Nigeria, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters found that, by highlighting the negative impact of trafficking in persons on the nationwide aspiration to economic development, security and good governance, people accepted that the issue was the responsibility of both the Government and society. Since 2007, the mechanism in Cambodia has been using the commemoration of a national anti-trafficking day to raise awareness nationwide about trafficking in persons. Numerous publications and media campaigns are also used in many countries to raise awareness about trafficking in persons. In Colombia, India and Mexico, films and soap operas on the topic have been produced for cinema and television. A number of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms also have websites that contain awareness-raising material and contact information that can be widely accessed.

30. The national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms in Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates have contributed to the processes of proposing, drafting and entering into bilateral and multilateral agreements with other countries in order to address cross-border trafficking in persons (see para. 39 below).

B. Regional and subregional frameworks supporting the work of national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms

31. Representatives of the Organization of American States, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, and United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in persons made presentations on how national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms could be strengthened to enable them to fight trafficking effectively at the regional and subregional levels. They recognized the catalytic role of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms in generating political will at the national level, which could then be translated into implementing subregional and regional anti-trafficking polices that were based on human rights and national legislation.

32. The experience of cooperation between India and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) demonstrated how a national rapporteur or equivalent mechanism could contribute to fighting trafficking in persons at the regional level. India has developed standard operating procedures for implementing the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children, which has been ratified by

all SAARC member States. Two toll-free numbers, one for children and the other for women, have also been set up in India and can be used by the secretariat of SAARC. Moreover, in 2013, India hosted a group of SAARC member States on a study tour to learn from the experiences of the Indian Integrated Anti-Human Trafficking Units.

33. The importance of bilateral cooperation agreements between national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms, in addition to the regional framework, was also mentioned by participants, who noted that such cooperation constituted good practice. It allowed the authorities to really tailor anti-trafficking measures to the specific issues in both countries. The representatives from Cambodia indicated that their country had consolidated its cooperation with Malaysia beyond the framework of the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT), through bilateral agreements. Indonesia had also entered into bilateral cooperation with countries within the region and beyond. The representative of the mechanism from Finland highlighted the need for such cooperation, in particular between countries in which national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms had similar mandates and tasks.

34. The representatives of the mechanisms in Brazil and Mexico recommended that national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms should support anti-trafficking work at the regional level by sharing their awareness-raising materials, including soap operas and other media coverage, with the Organization of American States. They also noted that such cooperation could be an effective means of reducing the costs of producing such materials for regional mechanisms.

35. Participants also highlighted the fact that regional and subregional mechanisms were in a unique position to support the efforts and build the capacity of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms so as to encourage a uniform anti-trafficking response that was both multilateral and sufficiently close to countries' realities and specificities within a certain region. Existing regional mechanisms or new structures dedicated to combating trafficking in persons within existing regional human rights mechanisms could provide technical assistance in drafting legislation, developing specific tools such as guidelines and standard operating procedures, trainings practitioners and commissioning studies, as well as monitoring and evaluating the work of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms at the regional level. The representative of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children noted that gender-sensitive guidelines for dealing with victims of trafficking were currently being developed. The aim of the guidelines was to address similar problem of trafficking in persons within the region in a uniform manner. The guidelines were expected to be put into practice following a consultative meeting with all member States in September 2014. National rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms were expected to complement that regional initiative by playing a crucial role in its implementation and ensuring that the guidelines were applied at the national level.

36. It was noted that regional and subregional mechanisms could also serve as platforms on which national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms could exchange information and learn from each other in order to address the dynamic nature of trafficking in persons in the region. That could be done through initiatives aimed at addressing cross-border trafficking in persons, sharing information, including good practices, tools and databases among agencies. The representative of the mechanism from Finland also noted that regional mechanisms facilitate the work of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms by keeping trafficking in persons on the regional agenda and encouraging Governments to act at the national level.

37. Participants emphasized the fact that, in order to fight trafficking in persons at the regional and subregional levels, it was first necessary to strengthen coordination between the different regional and subregional bodies involved in combating trafficking in persons.

C. Fostering partnership among national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms: challenges, dilemmas and lessons learned

38. The representatives of Bahrain, Colombia, Finland and Indonesia identified the challenges and dilemmas faced by national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms in fostering partnership between themselves. The difference in the mandates and duties of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms, highlighted by the Finnish representative, and the lack of information about the existence of those mechanisms and how to reach them, raised by the representatives of China and India, were identified as the main difficulties. In addition, the Indonesian representative mentioned that the ad hoc nature of some of the partnerships, and staff turnover within the offices of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms affected continued coordination and partnerships with similar mechanisms in other countries.

39. In the discussions, participants considered how national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms could increasingly and substantially coordinate among themselves in order to complement regional and international efforts. The representative of the mechanism in Finland mentioned that bilateral cooperation between countries in which national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms had similar mandates and functions facilitated cooperation. The representative of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters in Nigeria added that formal memorandums of understanding with sister national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms in source, transit and destination countries also established a framework for national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms to work together, including solving cases of cross-border trafficking in persons. The representative of the Indonesian mechanism highlighted the fact that capacity-building of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms could facilitate exchanges of experience and information in a uniform manner.

40. The initiative of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to convene annual consultative meetings for national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms was also seen as another good practice that would bolster contact and coordination among those mechanisms and complement national, regional and international anti-trafficking efforts. Participants called on the Special Rapporteur to continue providing a forum for networking between national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms by convening periodic consultative meetings on specific themes. The representative of the mechanism from Morocco proposed that the issue of trafficking should be on the agenda of the International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions, just as the issue of migration had been discussed at the Eighth International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions, held in 2006. The representative of Malaysia proposed that a forum for joint events between national human rights institutions and national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms could contribute to addressing the issue from different angles. In addition to existing websites with lists of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms, the establishment of a network of participants in the first and second consultative meetings for national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms convened by the Special Rapporteur, with a mailing list, was proposed as an initial means of ensuring that the anti-trafficking mechanisms could maintain contact, exchange information and coordinate their work.

D. Fostering cooperation between national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms and State and non-State actors in destination, transit and source countries

41. The question of how national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms could cooperate with State actors in destination, transit and source countries, while retaining independence and impartiality, was addressed in the presentations of the representatives of India, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco and Romania. While memorandums of understanding with other countries were identified as the most common form of cooperation, the representative of India stated that India cooperated with Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal on the basis of standard operating procedures to ensure coordination in the repatriation of victims of trafficking in persons, and mentioned that Bangladesh and India had set up a joint task force to fight trafficking in persons.

42. The role of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms in strengthening cooperation with non-State actors was also discussed. It was noted that non-State actors should include not only CSOs, but also victims of trafficking in persons, business, medical and faith-based communities. The representatives of Bahrain and Brazil mentioned the benefits of involving religious leaders, who could authoritatively influence a large portion of the population, in the fight against trafficking. The representative of Israel said that an effective way to engage the business community in the fight against trafficking in persons was to emphasize the negative impact of trafficking on the profits that businesses had to make. In Mexico, the Ministry of the Economy was part of the intersectoral committee that constituted the equivalent mechanism there; it had established a compliance code for the tourism sector and was involving that sector in its campaign against child trafficking. In the Philippines, the tourism sector in one area of the country had taken the initiative of declaring zero tolerance for trafficking in persons and was reporting any cases that it identified to the relevant authorities. The Special Rapporteur informed participants about her work with business enterprises and medical professionals in the preparation of her reports on the issue of trafficking in persons in supply chains (A/67/261), benchmarks and indicators for ensuring trafficking-free supply chains (A/HRC/23/48/Add.4, appendix I), and her thematic analysis of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal (A/68/256).

43. The value of collaborating with CSOs who were close to the affected groups and individuals by involving them in national plans of action and other activities and by supporting their work was also recognized by all. Building the capacities of CSOs and providing resources to enable them to conduct their anti-trafficking work, including by sharing tools for the collection of information and the monitoring and evaluation of anti-trafficking work in a uniform manner, was deemed important. In terms of challenges, the representative of Israel mentioned the reluctance of some CSOs to benefit from government funding to conduct their work, while the representative of Indonesia noted the limited resources and capacities of some CSOs, which resulted in delays in the provision of regular reports to the local and national anti-trafficking task forces of which they were a part.

E. Way forward: recommendations on strengthening partnership among national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms

44. **The usefulness and importance of such consultative meetings as a forum for networking, fostering partnership, exchanging information and good practices in combating trafficking in persons between national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms was appreciated by participants. The existing political will to continue and to enhance cooperation between national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms**

and their regional and international mechanisms was also noted. The discussions and exchanges during the consultative meeting resulted in the following recommendations.

45. In order to strengthen the institutional framework of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms in addressing trafficking in persons:

(a) There is a need to build the capacities of and allocate adequate resources to national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms with a view to facilitating, inter alia, independent and effective collection of data, exchange of information and coordination to address the problem of trafficking in persons. National rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms should also track progress in the fight against trafficking in persons through monitoring, evaluating and widely disseminating information on the impact of anti-trafficking laws, policies, programmes and interventions;

(b) National rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms should be able to update anti-trafficking responses in order to ensure that they are capable of reacting to the changing nature of trafficking in persons, in collaboration with stakeholders;

(c) In order to better understand the roles of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms, a global baseline study should be commissioned on lessons learned from national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms and examining trends and providing guidance in relation to those mechanisms.

46. In order to enhance collaboration between regional and subregional frameworks and national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms:

(a) Taking into consideration the specificities of each national rapporteur and equivalent mechanism, regional and subregional mechanisms should consider developing specific anti-trafficking tools such as guidelines, standard operating procedures, training modules for use by national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms to build their capacities and encourage a uniform approach within the region or subregion. Regional and subregional mechanisms could build on the experience of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms, including by disseminating training and awareness-raising materials that are already available within the region and subregion;

(b) The setting up of anti-trafficking monitoring mechanisms within regional and subregional human rights systems should be considered. When such structures already exist, coordination among the various regional bodies that are involved in anti-trafficking work should be strengthened;

(c) The establishment of a regional network of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms should be considered in order to address the issues involved in trafficking in persons in a uniform manner, exchange information and build on the different national experiences.

47. In order to foster cooperation between State actors and national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms:

(a) National rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms should adopt a human rights-based and victim-centred approach in their efforts to combat trafficking in persons;

(b) National rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms should enhance efforts to strengthen partnership, cooperation and coordination with national-level actors and encourage political will at the national level in order to address the root causes of trafficking in persons.

48. **In order to foster cooperation between non-State actors and national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms:**

(a) The participation of all stakeholders, including victims of trafficking in persons, CSOs, academia, national human rights institutions, faith-based organizations and the medical and business sectors, should be sought in developing and implementing anti-trafficking responses;

(b) National rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms should continue engaging more closely with civil society organizations that are involved in combating trafficking in persons and protecting and assisting victims;

(c) Given the low level of engagement of non-State actors other than NGOs working on the issue, capacity-building and awareness-raising campaigns should be devised, tools developed and regular public-private cooperation sought for a coordinated approach to addressing trafficking in persons.

Appendix

[English only]

Agenda of the second consultative meeting on strengthening partnerships with national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms, 21–22 May 2014

Wednesday, 21 May	
09.00–09.30	Registration
09.30–10.00	*Welcoming remarks*: Mr. Laurent Meillan, Officer-in-Charge, OHCHR, Bangkok Mr. Sebastian Baumeister, UNODC Regional Office, Bangkok *Introduction to the meeting*: Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children
10.00–11.00	**The role of national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms in addressing trafficking in persons: institutional framework** 1. What are the core functions of national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms? 2. What are the differences and similarities between national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms? 3. Which type of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms optimally addresses trafficking in persons (one person or a mechanism dedicated to the issue? Does the size of the country, the severity of the problem, the availability of resources matter?) What are the pros and cons of establishing national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms under a Government body or independently? Which Government body is appropriately placed to overview the work of the national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms? *Chair*: Ms. Annette Lyth, Regional Project Manager, United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT) *Speakers*: 1. Ms. Merav Shmueli, Acting Government Coordinator of the Battle against Trafficking in Persons in the Ministry of Justice, Israel 2. Ms. Fernanda dos Anjos, Coordinator, National Committee for combating Trafficking in Persons, Ministry of Justice, Brazil 3. Mr. Shree Ram Adhikari, In charge of International Desk, National Human Rights Commission, Nepal 4. Mr. Godwin E. Morka, Assistant Director Research and Programme Development, National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters, Nigeria

	Discussion
11.00–11.15	Coffee break
11.15–12.45	**National rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms in addressing trafficking in persons: institutional framework (*continued*)**
	4. What is the most effective framework for the establishment of national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms? (legislation, government resolution, office decision) How broad or narrow should the mandate of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms be?
	5. What are some challenges and dilemmas encountered by the national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms in the course of their work?
	6. What concrete impacts and results do national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms have on the effective implementation of anti-trafficking policies and legislation? (Collection of information, reporting, monitoring and evaluation…)
	Chair: Mr. Fernando Garcia-Robles, Coordinator, Anti Trafficking in Persons, Organization of American States (OAS)
	Speakers:
	1. Mr. Khamis Obaid Khamis Alkaabi, Ministry of the Interior, member, National Committee to Combat human trafficking, United Arab Emirates
	2. Mr. Benda Baguma, Coordinator, Counter Human Trafficking National Task Force, Uganda
	3. Mr. Dimitrijs Trofimovs, National Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Latvia
	4. Ms. Darlene R. Pajarito, Inter-Agency, Assistant City Prosecutor Council against Trafficking, Philippines
	Discussion
12.45–14.00	Lunch break
14.00–15.15	**Regional and subregional frameworks supporting the work of national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms**
	1. How can existing national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms be strengthened to become efficient key institutions in fighting trafficking in persons at the regional and subregional levels? (Discussing cooperation mechanisms/protocols, mandate to engage with stakeholders at the regional and subregional framework.
	2. What is the role of regional and subregional mechanisms in supporting the work of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms? Concrete examples and best practices.
	Chair: Ms. Federica Donati, Coordinator, Equality, Non-Discrimination and Participation Unit, OHCHR

Speakers:

1. Mr. Fernando Garcia-Robles ,Coordinator, Anti Trafficking in Persons, OAS

2. Ms. Kanda Vajrabhaya, Thailand representative, Association of Southeast Asian Nations Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)

3. Ms. Annette Lyth, Regional Project Manager, United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT)

Discussion

15.15–15.30 Coffee break

15.30–17.00 **Fostering partnership among national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms: challenges, dilemmas and lessons learned**

1. How to foster increased and substantial coordination among national mechanisms in order to complement regional and international efforts? Good practices/examples.

2. What challenges and dilemmas do national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms face in fostering partnerships between themselves?

Chair:
Ms. Kanda Vajrabhaya, Thailand representative, Association of Southeast Asian Nations Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)

Speakers:

1. Ms. Venla Roth, Senior Adviser (Expert on anti-human trafficking issues), Office of the Ombudsman for Minorities, National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, Finland

2. Ms. Lina Arbelaez, Minister advisor, Coordinator of Gender Equity Group, Inter institutional committee headed by Ministry of the Interior (as secretary) Ministry of Labour, Colombia

3. Mr. Hamid Patilima, Consultant for Government in Trafficking Issues and Child Protection, Anti-trafficking task force team coordinated by the Ministry for Women's Empowerment and Children's Protection, Indonesia

4. Ms. Shaima Najem, Third Secretary at the International Organizations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (as chair of the inter-ministerial national committee to combat trafficking in persons), Bahrain

Discussion

Thursday, 22 May

09.00–10.45 **Fostering cooperation between national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms and State and non-State actors in destination, transit and source countries**

1. How can national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms foster cooperation with State actors in destination, transit and source countries while retaining independence and impartiality? Challenges and good practices.

	2. What is the role of national rapporteurs in strengthening cooperation with non-State actors (including CSOs, business and medical communities)? Challenges and good practices.
	Chair: Ms. Szilvia Petkov, Associate Programme Officer, UNODC
	Speakers:
	1. Mr. Adrian Petrescu, National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons, Romania
	2. Ms. Mercedes Pelaez Ferrusca, Director General for Human Rights, Ministry of the Interior, Mexico
	3. Ms. Praveen Kumari Singh, Director, Anti-trafficking cell, Ministry of Home Affairs, India
	4. Ms. Syuhaida Abdul Wahab Zen, Secretariat to the Council for Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants, International Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Malaysia
	5. Mr. Abderrazzak Rouwane, Secretary General, Inter-Ministerial Commission to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Morocco
	Discussion
10.45–11.00	Coffee break
11.00–12.45	**Way forward: recommendations on strengthening partnership among national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms**
	Chair: Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children
	Chairs to highlight 3 main conclusions from each session
	Discussion
	Closing remarks: Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children
12.45–14.00	Lunch

List of participants in the second consultative meeting on strengthening partnerships with national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms

1. Representatives of Member States

Ms. Shaima Najem, Third Secretary, International Organizations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bahrain

Ms. Fernanda dos Anjos, Director, Department of Justice and Coordinator, National Policy for Combating Trafficking in Persons, Ministry of Justice, Brazil

Ms. Arun San, Chair of COMMIT Taskforce, and Secretary of State, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Cambodia

Mr. Chen Shiqu, Head of the Office, Combating Human Trafficking, Criminal Investigation Department, Ministry of Public Security, China

Ms. Lina Arbelaez, Minister Advisor, Director of Labour, Equity Group, Ministry of Labour, Colombia

Ms. Venla Roth, Senior officer, Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings/Ombudsman for Minorities, Finland

Ms. Praveen Kumari Singh, Director, Anti-trafficking cell, Ministry of Home Affairs, India

Mr. Hamid Patilima, Anti-trafficking task force team coordinated by the Ministry for Women's Empowerment and Children's Protection, Indonesia

Ms. Merav Shmueli, Acting Government Coordinator of the Battle against Trafficking in Persons in the Ministry of Justice, Israel

Mr. Dimitrijs Trofimovs, Director, Sectoral Policy Department, National Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Latvia

Ms. Thoummaly Vongphachanh, Director, Counselling and Protection Center for Women and Children, Lao People's Democratic Republic

Ms. Syuhaida Abdul Wahab Zen, Deputy Undersecretary, Secretariat for Trafficking in Persons, International Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Malaysia

Ms. Engku Norazilah E. Abdullah, Assistant Secretary, Secretariat for Trafficking in Persons, International Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Malaysia

Ms. Nur Afida Zahazmi, Assistant Secretary, Multilateral Security Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia

Mr. Gerardo Prato, Ambassador of Uruguay, Malaysia

Ms. Mercedes Pelaez Ferrusca, Director General for Human Rights, Ministry of the Interior, Mexico

Mr. Seddafi Abdelatif, Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Thailand, Morocco

Mr. Abderrazzak Rouwane, Secretary General, Inter-Ministerial Delegation for Human Rights, Morocco

Mr. Win Naing Tun, Head of Myanmar COMMIT Taskforce; Head of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Myanmar Police Force, Ministry of Home Affairs, Myanmar

Mr. Shree Ram Adhikari, In charge of International Desk, National Human Rights Commission, Nepal

Ms. Manju Khatiwada, Senior Human Rights Officer, National Human Rights Commission, Nepal

Mr. Godwin E. Morka, Assistant Director, Research and Programme Development, National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters, Nigeria

Ms. Darlene R Pajarito, Assistant city prosecutor, Department of Justice, Philippines

Mr. Adrian Petrescu, National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons, Romania

Mr. Khamis Alkaabi, Ministry of the Interior, Member, National Committee to combat trafficking in persons, United Arab Emirates

Mr. Ahmed Bahaddin Khier, Member, National Committee to combat trafficking in persons, United Arab Emirates

Ms. Sara Shohail, Member, National Committee to combat trafficking in persons, and General Director, Ewaa Shelter, United Arab Emirates

Mr. Benda Baguma, Office of the President, member of National Anti-trafficking Task Force, Uganda

Mr. Le Van Chuong, Deputy Administrator, Steering Office on Anti-drug and Crime, Ministry of Public Security, Viet Nam

2. United Nations, international and regional organizations

Ms. Kanda Vajrabhaya, Thailand representative, Association of Southeast Asian Nations Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)

Mr. Fernando Garcia-Robles, Coordinator, Anti-Trafficking in Persons, OAS

Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children

Ms. Annette Lyth, Regional Project Manager, United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT)

Mr. Lim Tith, National project Coordinator, UN-ACT, Cambodia

Ms. He Yunxiao, National project Coordinator, UN-ACT, China

Ms. Xoukiet Panyanouvong, National Project Coordinator, UN-ACT, Lao People's Democratic Republic

Mr. Sebastian Baumeister, Project Coordinator, Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific

Ms. Szilvia Petkov, Associate Programme Officer, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, UNODC, Vienna

Mr. Laurent Meillan, Officer in Charge, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Regional Office in Bangkok

Ms. Federica Donati, Coordinator, Equality, Non-discrimination and Participation Unit, Special Procedures Branch, OHCHR

Ms. Selma Vadala, Human Rights Officer, Equality, Non-discrimination and Participation Unit, Special Procedures Branch, OHCHR